



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Olympia, WA 98504-5000

July 18, 2007

Dear Foster Parent/Relative Caregiver:

Many of you may have read or heard about the article on June 24, 2007 in the Tacoma News and Tribune, detailing the case of Chornice Lewis and our foster child. For the thousands of caregivers like you, who provide quality care for our foster children, this situation is especially difficult. The reporter paints a bleak story of Children's Administration's (CA) inability to put the pieces together and protect this child from a decade of physical and emotional abuse by her foster parent.

The case represents a reminder of the heavy burden of responsibility we all share in protecting children. It also renews our commitment to work together with foster parents and relatives, and the community for the safety and well-being of children which is at the heart of our work.

As we move forward, we continue to rely on you. We need your experience and insight to make sure that we stay on track with child safety. We also want you to know that we appreciate you opening your hearts and your home to make a child's life better. We will continue to work together to make sure the hard work you do every day for the children in your care is what is remembered rather than the rare tragedies that make the headlines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Stephani".

Cheryl Stephani, Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration